

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the title "BUILDING BLOCK" and replace it with the following title:

CONSTRUCTION ELEMENT.

Page 1, first paragraph, delete in its entirety, and replace with the following:

The present invention relates to a construction element for the construction of a wall, ~~and to a wall constructed with such elements~~, said element comprising an upper face, a lower face, and side faces, said construction element comprising at least one groove or mortise provided for delivering by grading a bonding agent or binder necessary for the assembling of the construction elements with one another, said groove or mortise extending on the upper face of the construction element, said construction element likewise comprising at least one protuberance or tenon, which extends on the lower face of the construction element, the mortise being arranged in such a way as to be in correspondence with the protuberance or tenon of a similar construction element so as to allow for the assembling of two similar construction elements, said mortise being associated with a load-bearing wall or partition of the construction elements, and arranged at a distance from the outer side edge of the construction element which is sufficient to prevent the overflow of the binder beyond the edge of the element during assembly.

Page 1, between the fourth and fifth paragraphs, insert the following new paragraph:

The Patent FR-E-73363 describes such a construction element. The presence of tenons and mortises not only allows for the binder to be introduced into the mortise, but likewise facilitates construction by placing the tenon in the mortise. The arrangement of the mortises and

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

tenons at a distance from the outer side edge of the wall allows for the overflow of the binder beyond the edge to be prevented. A good quality of finish can therefore be obtained.

Page 1, seventh paragraph, delete in its entirety, and replace with the following:

~~A disadvantage of these elements is that they require a large number of special pieces for the wall connections, which are created in the traditional manner by crossing the masonry elements of which they are formed.~~ construction elements according to the Patent FR-E-73363 is that they require quite strict dimensional tolerances and only allow for adjustment of alignment during the assembly of the construction elements. The adjustment of verticality is effected by the plumb alignment of the interior facing.

Page 1, eighth paragraph (spanning pages 1 and 2), delete in its entirety, and replace with the following:

The document FR-A-1 271 506 describes construction blocks of traditional dimensions which present grooves or mortises of which the cumulative width is close to the width of the block. The cumulative width of the mortises is overall greater than the cumulative width of the load-bearing partitions. There are no mortises above the walls, which are therefore not load-bearing. One disadvantage of the blocks described is that, for the assembly of such blocks, the quantity of bonding agent used is traditional. Another disadvantage is that, since the shape of the tenons in the mortises on the lower part of the block is intended to allow for easy forcing into the bonding agent (P and P' in Fig. 1), ~~this~~ which results in a virtually zero floating capability of the block, which therefore means that there is practically no adjustment possible of the height or of the plumb alignment of the blocks. The blocks which can be used in the system described in FR-

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

A-1 271 506 must have very low dimensional tolerances, or be rectified in such a way as to ensure the horizontal alignment of the elements in the wall.

Page 3, second full paragraph, delete in its entirety, and replace with the following:

The object of the present invention is to provide construction elements which will allow for substantial manufacturing tolerances to be achieved, and which likewise allow for the adjustment of the height and the plumb alignment during assembly.

Page 3, third and fourth full paragraphs, delete in their entirety, and replace with the following:

To this end, the invention provides for a construction element for the construction of a wall, characterised in that ~~it comprises at least one mortise, which is associated with a load-bearing wall or partition made of the construction element, and which is arranged at a distance from the outer lateral edge of the construction element which is sufficient to prevent the bonding agent from extending beyond the edge of the element during assembly,~~ the mortise and the tenon being dimensioned in such a way as to allow, during the assembly of two elements, for a partial embedding, allowing for a strip of binder to be formed assembly, for a partial boxing effect which will between the upper face and the lower face of the elements, the only contact between the two superimposed elements therefore being provided by the intermediary of this strip, so as to allow for an adjustment of the alignment, ~~of the height, and of the plumb alignment~~ of the elements which are to be assembled.

~~The design concept of the construction element according to the present invention allows for a considerable amount of time to be gained in the construction of walls and, moreover, the~~

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

~~finish of these walls is excellent. The assembly of the elements is made easier, since they embed easily and partially into one another thanks to the presence of the groove (mortise) on the upper surface of the elements, and the protuberance (tenon) on the lower surface of the elements. The dimensions of the mortise and the tenon are such as will allow for the adjustment of the elements, which facilitates the correct construction of the wall. In addition to this, the quantity of binder to be used is substantially reduced in relation to a traditional system of construction, because the binder does not extend beyond the edge, and the masonry can be erected with thin joints. In effect, the difference in width between the tenon and the mortise is just such as to allow for the adjustment of the height and the plumb alignment, by allowing the binder to make use of this difference in width. The fact that a strip of binder is formed allows for the only contact between two superimposed elements, and therefore the adjustment of the height and plumb alignment, to be effected by the intermediary of this strip.~~

Page 3, sixth paragraph (spanning pages 3 and 4), delete in its entirety, and replace with the following:

A first preferred embodiment of a construction element according to the invention is characterised in that the height of the construction element is of such dimensions that an assembly upwards of construction elements forms a standard height beneath interior lintels and beneath masonry stretches ~~beneath~~under ceilings, and in that the weight of the construction element is less than or equal to 25 kg, and the height of the element is greater than or equal to its length.